

The Academic Regulations Appendix 23:

The Role of a Student's Friend in Academic Conduct Procedures

2026-27

Contents

Regulation.....	3
1. Context.....	3
2. Role of a Student's Friend	3
3. Representation.....	4
Key to relevant documents.....	6
Annexes	6
End matter	6

Regulation

1. Context

1. Edge Hill University has a number of formal student casework procedures which involve meetings at which the student concerned is allowed to be accompanied by a friend. These procedures relate to
 - Academic Misconduct
 - Academic and other appeals
 - Complaints
 - Fitness to Practise
 - Non-Academic Misconduct
2. The above procedures may include local and University level investigative meetings. This guidance on the role of a student's friend applies equally at all stages of the relevant process.

2. Role of a Student's Friend

1. The role of a student's friend is to provide the student concerned with moral, emotional or wellbeing support. The friend has no formal role in the meeting and cannot act as the student's representative/advocate or ask questions.
2. Normally, it is expected that a person acting as the student friend will be a member of the Edge Hill University community. However, they should not be connected to the case (eg they cannot be a witness to disciplinary proceedings) or have any other conflicts of interest.
3. It is the student's responsibility to identify someone to act as a friend and to provide them with relevant details of the case
4. The friend may accompany the student to preliminary meetings, formal investigations and panel hearings.
5. Where a student's friend attends such meetings, the friend is allowed to provide guidance to the student by providing moral support, taking notes and helping with papers. They may also quietly advise on issues such as points of procedure, items that the student may wish to raise and also suggest questions the student may wish to ask witnesses.
6. While the friend is not allowed to speak for the student or ask direct questions, they may read a pre-prepared statement on behalf of the student and summarise key points the student wishes to make.
7. If at any time the student considers they need a short break to discuss any issues with their friend they can make this request via the Chair.
8. The friend is expected to conduct themselves in a polite and courteous manner and must not interrupt the proceedings.
9. The friend is expected to respect and comply with the University's processes, procedures, terms and conditions.

3. Representation

Students' Union

1. The [Students' Union Advice Centre](#) offers students free, independent and personalised advice and representation.. Students' Union Advisors are familiar with the University's procedures and can help students navigate the process they are involved in. Students are strongly encouraged to access this service.,.
2. Students may appoint a Students' Union Advisor to provide support and/or representation at all stages of the procedures listed under 1.1.
3. The role of a Students' Union representative extends beyond that of a student's friend, as a Students' Union Advisor may also
 - Present relevant points to the panel
 - Ask questions to the Chair or Presenting Officer
 - Summarise any points that the student may have missed when presenting their case.

Legal representation

4. The University's internal processes are not judicial procedures. Whilst students and the University have the right to seek legal advice in the matter of a student casework process, legal representation is not normally necessary or permitted.
5. The University endeavours to provide access to well-trained staff and resources to support and guide students involved in a casework procedures. Students involved in a casework process are encouraged to access University advice and support, and in particular to consult with the Students' Union.
6. In highly exceptional cases, legal representation may be permitted. For example where the University considers a case to be extremely complex or where the consequences for the student are potentially very serious.. The potential for a student to be withdrawn from the University is not, of itself, a sufficient ground to permit legal representation.
7. Where legal representation is approved, representation from the Students' Union will not be permitted. The legal representative may act as the student's advisor as detailed in point 3.3 above.
8. Students seeking legal representation in an internal casework process must request permission for this as soon as possible and no later than three calendar days before the panel meeting (for example, a student must notify the University by 10am Tuesday, for a meeting due to be held at 10am on Friday of the same week).
9. Requests must be made in writing to the [Head of Student Casework](#). The University will normally respond to any such request within one working day of receipt of the request.
10. Where a request is permitted the University may acquire its own legal representation.

11. Where a request is rejected, a written explanation will be provided. In all cases the University will provide a written response to student requests, explaining any relevant information and giving details about next steps.
12. For the purposes of our internal procedures, the University's decision in the matter of legal representation will be final.
13. In all instances students must meet the costs of any legal services they elect to use during a University process.

Key to relevant documents

- [Appendix 17: Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Appendix 23: Role of a Student's Friend](#)
- [Complaints Procedure](#)
- [Non-Academic Misconduct Procedure](#)

Annexes

There are no annexes to this policy.

End matter

Item	Information
Title	Appendix 23: Role of a Student's Friend in Academic Conduct Procedures
Policy Owner	Director of Academic Registry
Policy Manager	Head of Student Casework
Approved by	Regulations Review Sub-Committee
Date of Approval	July 2026
Date for Review	July 2027